



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 14)

Dear Minister,

CommFish NSW met by video conference on Friday the 7th of August to progress a number of issues.

NSW DPI provided more information on questions raised at the last meeting in relation to the Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework. After considerable discussion all members agreed to recommend to you that the Framework should go out for broader consultation but some members still had concerns with the method of calculating GVP for individual sectors which in their view was creating inequities. CommFish agreed to recommend to DPI that the methodology should be reviewed by an independent economist to ensure the most representative GVP figures are being used.

Members were given an update on progress with the Business Efficiency Program and revisited several proposals that were initially deemed to be out of scope. They also agreed that a number of proposals including nominating endorsement holders, real time reporting, crewing in the Estuary General fishery and access rights and transfer rules should go to the joint CommFish/RecFish working group for review.

In relation to the joint working group, the Chair of RecFish NSW has agreed to jointly chair the WG with me and has put forward several names in readiness for the group to begin the review.

Good progress has been made in establishing the Rock Lobster Harvest Strategy WG and the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy WG with a panel to meet next week to decide on membership of the Trawl Whiting WG.

CommFish members were updated on progress with the Penalty Demerit Scheme and Regulation Amendments.

CommFish supported in principle several industry driven initiatives including the development of signage to explain the operations of the Ocean Haul fishery to the public and traineeships for junior fishers. CommFish also supported a proposal for industry to develop funding applications for projects that would enhance the fishing industry through the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund and with leverage from FRDC.

CommFish NSW has also agreed to have its own standalone identity through a new logo which is on this letterhead.

The next meeting of CommFish will be on the 2nd of October. In closing I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort by NSW DPI in researching and preparing papers for the last three meetings that have been held in quick succession. I also acknowledge the dedication of members who have been willing to provide their expertise for the meetings.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Richey AM
CommFish NSW Chair